

# 2025 Annual Report

## Onondaga Free Library



Family Storytime with Miss Hannah  
November 5, 2025

### *Greetings from Onondaga Free Library*

During the past year, we continued to support our mission of promoting access to all, lifelong literacy, and the well being of our community. There was a healthy increase in library engagement as evidenced by statistics and patron feedback. Total circulation of 245,501 items was excellent and e-book circulation continued to increase from the previous year. Our in person visits totaled 68,008.

We continued to grow our partnerships with many local organizations along with the Onondaga, West Genesee, and Westhill Central School Districts, and worked together to bring a superb variety of programming to our community. As a result, we offered 659 programs attended by 9,744 people, a 74% increase in average attendance per program as compared to 2024.

Several building improvements were made this year, including sound dampening in the public meeting rooms (use of which increased 26%), sidewalk repairs, and technology upgrades. There are current plans to replace the flat roofing system and the community room flooring. This commitment to building infrastructure is made possible by staff, the Board of Trustees, vendors, and NYS construction grant aid.

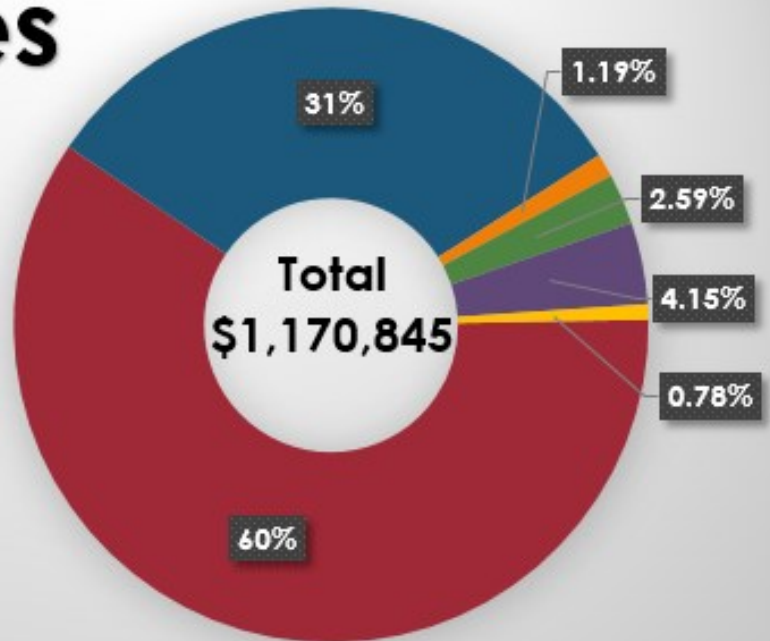
To our dedicated community that supports the library, we thank you for providing the financial resources to be able to offer collections, programs, and services that change lives for the better. Our library staff, Board of Trustees, Friends, and patrons have made it possible for us to succeed and meet the evolving needs of our community. We look forward to seeing you at the library.

*Susan Morgan*, Director

# 2025 Financial Summary

## Revenues

- Town of Onondaga (\$700,000)
- School Districts (\$368,716)<sup>1</sup>
- State Aid & Grants (\$13,985)
- Gifts & Fundraising (\$30,342)<sup>2</sup>
- Interest & Investments (\$48,631)
- Library Charges (\$9,171)

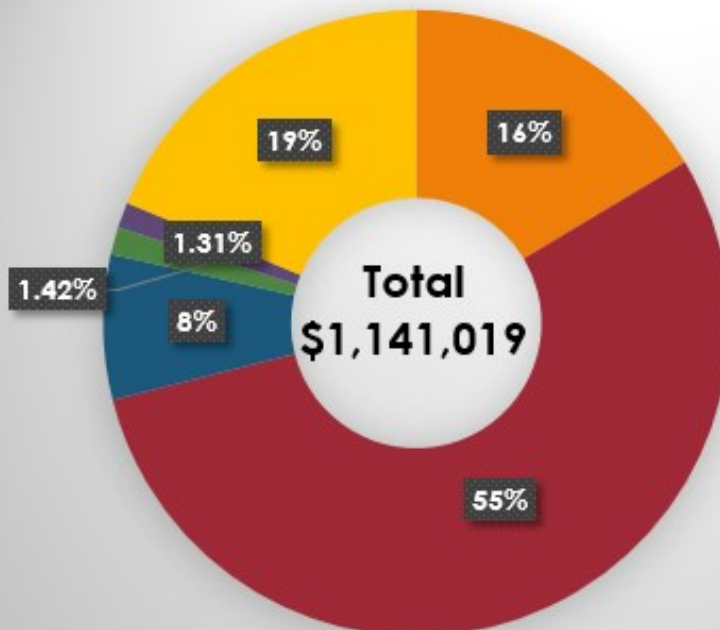


<sup>1</sup>School Districts include Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central Schools.

<sup>2</sup>Gifts & Fundraising total includes \$22,648 from the Friends of Onondaga Free Library.

**Grants:** Solvay Bank, in partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, selected OFL to receive a \$5,000 grant. This money has been earmarked for new flooring in the community room. To celebrate the 15-year anniversary of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Onondaga County, all OCPL libraries received a small grant of \$100 for each library to host a special storytime.

## Expenditures



- Debt Service (\$187,303)
- Staff Salaries, Wages, Benefits & Taxes (\$623,343)
- Collections (\$85,412)
- Programming (\$16,239)
- Capital Expenditures (\$14,912)
- Building Operation & Maintenance (\$213,810)



**Rosamond Gifford Zoo's Fall Fest (10/5/2025):** OFL's Marketing & Outreach Coordinator tabling with Onondaga County Public Libraries. 23 new patrons signed up for library cards at this event!

## Programming, Partnerships & Outreach

OFL offered a wide range of programs while cultivating several community partnerships in 2025. We hosted guest speakers from many local organizations including WAVES Ambulance, Upstate University Hospital, Liverpool Art Center, CNY History Players, Beaver Lake Nature Center, Prevention Network of CNY, Center for Aging Resources & Enrichment (CARE), Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association, Syracuse Vegan Living and many more.

We were also excited to welcome great local authors to OFL this year, including Linda Lowen (*Secret Syracuse*), Dennis Connors (*The Gilded Age on Syracuse's James Street*), Tina Morris (*Saving the Bald Eagle*), John Simone (*Tex Simone: The Man Who Saved Baseball in Syracuse*) and the very popular Dr. Mary Jumbelic (*Speak Her Name*).

OFL had the opportunity to table at several events in the community this year, including Maker Faire, Indigenous Peoples' Day Festival, Health Fair at AHEPA Senior Living, Congressman Mannion's Veterans and Senior Fairs, Christmas in July at the Syracuse Mets, Onondaga Hill Fire Department Open House, Rosamond Gifford Zoo's Fall Fest, Zoo Boo and Holiday Nights, as well as several events at local schools.

## Summer: Color Our World

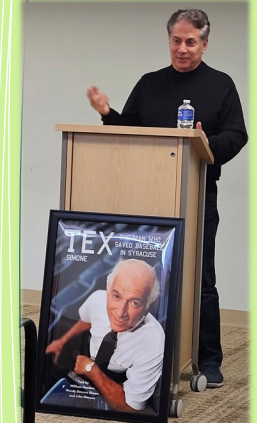
We had another memorable summer! First, thank you to our summer sponsors:

- ◆ Friends of OFL: Providing \$3,000, fully funded summer reading prizes and programming.
- ◆ Gannon's Ice Cream & Fairmount Glen Mini-Golf: Donating summer reading incentives.

Thank you also to all of our amazing patrons who participated in Summer Reading and attended our great lineup of programs. The 2025 Summer Reading theme was *Color Our World*, and we fully embraced it by offering colorful art programs all summer! To kick it off, we went over the rainbow to the Land of OZ. Over the course of 3 days, over 250 patrons of all ages stopped in for *The Wizard of Oz*-themed activities including meeting Glinda! Families were invited to drop by the library on Fridays to paint rocks to be added to our new community art project, Rosco the Rock Snake, who lives in our garden. As always, we welcomed several special guests to the library throughout summer, including Onondaga Hill Fire Department, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, the M.O.S.T., Palette of Stories and more.



Patrons getting their picture taken with Glinda!



Author Talk & Book Signing with John Simone—November 12, 2025 Sponsored by the Friends of OFL

## Thank you Friends!

The Friends of OFL held successful fundraising and membership campaigns in 2025. Proceeds from their fundraising efforts (over \$22,000 donated in 2025) provided support for the library's collections, including Lucky Day books, eBooks and Empire Passes to state parks. The Friends also funded the following building enhancements: two digital displays for the library, a Nintendo Switch 2 and several games for the Teen Space, Montessori busy boards for the Play & Learn Room and upgraded wireless access points. The Friends also sponsored several programs, including Rev Theater Co. performance, a teen art class and several author events and lectures and more!. The Friends advocacy efforts, program support and staff appreciation help make our library an amazing community resource. Thank you for being champions of all we do at OFL!



Festival of Trees winners

# MARCH 2026 FACES OF OFL:

## Board of Trustees

Yvonne Slate, President  
Margaret Farrell, Treasurer  
Patricia Forken, Secretary  
Joe Campbell  
Charlotte Garofalo  
Elizabeth LaRochele  
Diane Leshinski  
Rob Price

## Full-Time Staff

Susan Morgan, Director  
Scott Lipkowitz, Assistant Director &  
Digital Services & Technology  
Librarian  
Hannah Bewsher,  
Youth Services Librarian  
Abigail Connolly,  
Youth Services Librarian  
Chantal Rothermel, Marketing &  
Outreach Coordinator  
Amy Bader, Circulation Supervisor

## Part-Time Staff

Suzanne Allen, Clerk  
Laura Calandra, Processing Clerk  
Theresa Castilano, Clerk  
Danielle Catlin, Library Assistant  
Michelle Crews, Marketing Assistant  
Kenadie MacDerment, Clerk  
Sue Thomas, Clerk  
Debbie Zabel, Clerk  
Brennan Zimmer,  
Clerk & Bookkeeper

## Substitute Staff

Anna Dobkowski, Clerk  
Penny Feeney, Librarian  
Pat Hagemann, Clerk

## 2025 Staff Hires:

**Abigail Connolly, Youth Services Librarian** • Abigail received her B.A. in Public Relations and English from SUNY Oswego. Before joining OFL, she spent the two years working for a regional radio news outlet, which inspired her to have a greater relationship with her community. Abigail began working toward a Master's of Library and Information Science through St. John's University with the goal of working in public libraries. She enjoys fostering community connections and is motivated by early literacy development and programming.



In her spare time, Abigail loves reading, cooking, puzzling, and exploring all the local ice cream and coffee shops she can.

**Danielle Catlin, Library Assistant** • Danielle is originally from Rochester, NY and recently made the move to Syracuse, where she's loving the new scenery. She brings a diverse professional background to the library, with experience in sales, food service, retail, cosmetology, and library services. Her love of libraries began at the Rochester Public Library (Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County NY)'s Lyell Branch Library, where she started as a Page and quickly moved into roles as a Literacy Aide and then Clerk/Typist. Danielle is passionate about connecting with the community, supporting digital literacy, and—of course—reading.



Outside of work, she's a devoted dog mom to Moose and Mars and loves all things creative, from painting and crocheting to crafting miniatures. She's excited to continue learning about the library system, explore programming, and give back to her new community.

**Anna Dobkowski, Substitute Clerk** • Anna has over 25 years of experience covering all aspects of the library world from storytimes to legislative advocacy. She has a sincere commitment and passion for the core belief that libraries are for everyone and its principle ideal of resource sharing.



Anna started her career as a civil/environmental engineer, took time off to raise three children and then came to libraries in a whirlwind.

She enjoys bicycling, finding new hiking trails and spending fun and crazy times with her two granddaughters.

## Onondaga Free Library

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## Connect with us:

@OnondagaFreeLib

